

## **THE RINGMASTER**

### *Definition*

*A Ringmaster is a Chief or Head Steward generally responsible for the smooth running of the Main Arena (Rings), but may only be responsible for the Arena/Rings for specified defined activity; for example whilst it is being used for equestrian competitive activity.*

*Within the defined activity (sections), in addition to the Ring & Arena Stewards, they are the most senior official that competitors should address queries to and raise problems with during the show.*

### *Authority:*

*The determination of the Ringmaster, or in their absence, or by their authority, The Assistant Ringmaster, upon any question or dispute arising in or incidental to the conduct of the Ring or the conduct of any competition, parade, exhibition or event therein, or as to the qualifications of any exhibitor, or as to the proper description of anything whether animate or inanimate shall be final and binding upon the Association and upon all exhibitors and other persons affected thereby.*

The Ringmaster should:

1. Have a solid knowledge & understanding of the association's rules & regulations, particularly where they apply to the main arena activity and equestrian disciplines and especially the procedures for the receipt & conduct of official protests.
  - a. Upon receipt of an official protest, immediately follow the procedure established by the association or in the absence of an established procedure, the ASC of NSW guidelines for conducting an official protest.
2. Have a good knowledge of equestrian discipline competition rules & guidelines (e.g. Show Horse Council, EA, ASC of NSW, capital city Royal Shows etc.) and an awareness of individual breed rules/guidelines.
3. Be appropriately dressed for the standard of the show, the weather conditions and be clearly identifiable as the Ringmaster.
4. Be seen at all times to keep strictly to all rules and regulations without favouritism. Be approachable and fair to everyone, whilst remaining reserved and separate from exhibitors and maintaining a firm control of the activity in the arena/rings.
5. Be aware of the show's risk management, misconduct & workplace health & safety policies and be vigilant in minimising the incidence and impact of any potential risks within the main arena to competitors, spectators, stewards & judges.
6. Exercise, under the Rules of the association, full control of the arena (or the parts allocated to them) and be provided the authority to make any reasonable decisions that are necessary to maintain control and minimise risk to both public and competitors.
7. Be in attendance on the showground/arena at all times during the use of the arena, for which they are responsible particularly during adjudication.
8. Arrive in plenty of time to brief the Stewards and Judges and ensure they are prepared at the appropriate time to receive, classify & judge exhibits, record results & present awards. They should be particularly attentive to the security of personal data of competitors and the custody and veracity of the Section/s results.
9. Ensure the Rings are set up satisfactorily for the smooth, safe & efficient running of the Show and that ribbons, trophies, result sheets, pens, clip boards etc. in addition to seating, shelter and refreshments for officials are provided in each ring.
10. Endeavour to keep the rings running to time. A word in the steward's and/or judge's ear may be necessary through the day. In the case of a clash of classes every effort should be made to allow an exhibitor to compete, however, in fairness to other Competitors the Rings should not be held up unnecessarily.
11. Ensure exhibitors & other persons not required for an exhibit are removed from the vicinity of judges during adjudication.

12. Endeavour to ensure that Stewards not do or say anything to an exhibitor or any other person regarding the adjudication of an exhibit or repeat the remarks the judge may make without their specific consent and that of the Ringmaster.
13. Not show their exhibits or have someone else show their exhibits in their relative section/s or in any other section in which they have a direct contact with the judge.
14. Keep up with developments within shows, new terminology and its meaning and be determined to prevent any conduct or activity detrimental to the association.
15. Report immediately to the appropriate person in the association the knowledge that an exhibit is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease and apply the organisation biosecurity plan.

22 February 2018